

L.T. SUNOCO, FRIDAY, JUNE 2 1944  
STANDARD

AIR WAR

History was made today by the landing of a squadron of Planes. They were heavy American bombers and they came to earth in Soviet Russian. They flew from bases in the west, hit the Nazis, and kept going straight to the land of the Soviets. And so today began shuttle-bombing-with Soviet bases as one termin

us. So no wonder Major General Deane, head of the American Military Mission in Russia, tells us:

"The operations carried out today marked the first large scale physical collaboration of the air forces of Britain, Russia, and the United States."

The Moscow dispatch is datelined -

"Eastern Command, United States Strategic Air Force Somewhere in Russia." And General Deane

declares: "American and Russian soldiers have been working day and night for the past few months

preparing the bases to receive the American aircraft"

In other words, we have set up bases in Russia-for

systematic shuttle-bombing.

ADD INVASION

20  
While <sup>Sec.</sup> Stimson was giving out that information in Washington, British Admiral Sir William James told the world that the date for the invasion will come before long. The Admiral is Chief of British Naval Information.

At that particular moment a spokesman from invasion headquarters was broadcasting over the radio <sup>so-called</sup> "last-minute instructions" to civilians in Europe. He warned the patriots of the Nazi occupied countries to organize in small groups of four or five, people all known to each other. There is danger in large groups, which might include someone who would betray them to the Germans. The warning included these words: "Get ready to lend a hand when the time comes, whether it is fire-fighting, first aid, observation of the enemy's movements, or ~~not~~ merely the monitoring of London's radio bulletins." The spokesman added that the next broadcast would be on Monday, June Fifth.

The Nazi radio <sup>today</sup> professed to have information that the Allies <sup>have now</sup> ~~had~~ massed fifteen divisions in North Africa for an attack on southern France, <sup>an attack</sup> to be synchronized with the main invasion from the West.

## AIR WAR.

Over Europe the air war was interrupted by weather from midnight until late this afternoon. Then, however, strong formations flew over the channel and bombed the French invasion coast. Before midnight the R.A.F. with its heaviest bombers battered the Nazi defenses and carried out attacks over a two hundred mile front in France..

The British Air Ministry declares that the Nazi railway system has been so successfully broken up by systematic bombings that it will take the Germans quite a while to repair it. In fact,, in places it' is beyond repair. The British say the accuracy of the bombing and the number of the attacks have been such that the Germans appear to have abandoned all idea of getting all their yards in full working order again. Since the attacks began the Royal Air Force has attacked thirty-eight key rail points. Some of the raids were so

rail centers in Hungary and Rumania - targets from which they ~~might readily have flown~~ <sup>flew readily</sup> on to nearby Russia.

~~So it is taken for granted that~~ <sup>So</sup> the raid against Hungary and Rumania today constituted that first shuttle-bombing trip to Russia.

There has been plenty of talk about refusal of the Soviets to permit American and British air power to use bases in Russia - and now we have the fact that American bases on Soviet territory have been in preparation, and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ were actually in use today.

This is a fact of such history-making importance in the war that it throws into ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ eclipse the other items of air war news - although from Britain a new record-breaking blow was struck, when American heavy bombers made their heaviest assault against the French invasion coast. Fifteen hundred ~~fnx~~

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The prompt comment from Washington is that this new development removes a blind spot from the aerial bombing map of Europe -- industrial sectors of Eastern Germany which hitherto have been protected by distances from British and Italian bases now are open to American and British bombing from Russia -- not to mention the Nazi satellites in the Balkans, which are jittery already and are now likely to have the shakes. ~~There~~ <sup>They</sup> are on the direct shuttle route from Italy to Russia.

The latest from Moscow is a statement of losses. The shuttle ~~le~~ squadron was a big one with only one bomber and one fighter ~~lost~~ missing.

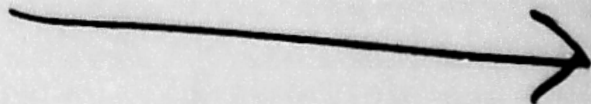
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preparation and were actually in use today.

Washington tells us that plans for this were broached at the conference of Foreign Ministers at Moscow last year, and were elaborated in the Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin talks at Teheran. Plans to be put into practice now.

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of General Jimmy Doolittle's Flying Fortresses and Liberators smashed at Nazi fortifications - and the British R.A.F. hit the Nazis last night - with a double assault launched from Britain and from Italy - a one-two punch at night.

NEW GUINEA

From Biak Island, New Guinea, the word tonight is favorable. General McArthur's troops have found the going tough in their attempt to take the Mokmer air base, which is the number one objective at Biak. <sup>TP</sup> Of late, the Japs have been caving in rather easily when American amphibious operations have hit them. <sup>But</sup> <sub>^</sub> On Biak Island they have been putting up a bitter and powerful fight---stubbornly defending Mokmer air base, which is in ~~land~~ <sup>land</sup>-bombing range of the Phillipine Islands. Now, however, reinforcements have been landed to aid the attacking troops, reinforcements, supplies. And the invasion surged forward. <sup>TP</sup> A dispatch from Allied headquarters states that McArthur's men have ~~been~~ driven to the top of Mokmer Ridge. That's a crest of high ground dominating the flying field, a rugged ridge from which the Japs established powerful positions. These now have been taken, and from the high ground the Americans can look down on the flying field which they hope to take with another vigorous thrust.

## FIRE

8  
Here is one of those coincidences that make us gape at the appropriateness of things. Over in England today, an American flying officer, Major George Bravos of Chicago, was driving in a jeep through an English village. He was just passing a <sup>thatched</sup> cottage, when there was an explosion and out dashed a seventy year old man with his clothing ablaze. The Major hopped out, ~~of the jeep and dashed to the rescue.~~ He seized the old man, and tried to beat out the flames with his bare hands. He couldn't do it that way, so he ran back to the jeep and yanked out a fire extinguisher. That did the trick, and the Major hurried the aged victim to an American hospital. There a flight surgeon administered blood plasma, and announced that the old man would recover - okay.

The coincidence became apparent when they discovered what had happened. From an American plane flying overhead, a gas tank had broken loose, and had

crashed through the roof of the cottage and exploded.

An American mishap, <sup>! And</sup> ~~which~~ an American officer in a jeep

happened to be driving past at that ~~very~~ moment to save

the life of the old man whom the explosion had set on

fire.

POPE

9  
Today Pope Pius the Twelfth spoke for moderation in the war, moderation in victory. He expressed the fear that the policy of total victory and unconditional surrender would only cause the Germans to fight to the final gasp of desperation. ~~He said that people are discussing peace, some advocating moderation, others vowing vengeance.~~ And he declared that a policy of vengeance against the enemy will lead that enemy to believe that there is no alternative between fighting-on and being destroyed.

"When once this sharp dilemma has entered men's minds," declared Pius the Twelfth, "its baneful influence is a stimulant toward prolonging the war - even among those who by natural impulse or for ~~xxxix~~ realistic considerations would be disposed to a reasonable peace." And he continued: "Those who are under the domination of such feelings go on, as in a

hypnotic sleep, through abysses of unspeakable sacrifice and constrain others to a war of extermination."

The Pontiff went on to say that there should be a just punishment <sup>of</sup> ~~for~~ criminals, who have committed acts of violence not called for by the conduct of the war - violence against persons and things. And he advocated what he called: "guarantees necessary for the defense of right against possible attacks of violence." In other words, the Vatican issues a plea for a moderate peace that would punish war criminals and would provide for measures to suppress future aggressors. — *but not vengeance.*

And Pope Pius spoke of the plight of Rome, with the battle raging at the Roman gates. He said that those who brought destruction against Rome would be guilty of what he called - "matricide." ~~He said he is doing all he can to get food to the people of the~~

city on the Tiber, and has opened negotiations to have provisions brought to Rome in <sup>Vatican</sup> ~~battleships~~. But ~~this~~ has been held up by the failure of one belligerent to reply. He did ~~not say what belligerent~~

Meanwhile, we hear that in Rome there is a shortage of food which is described as appalling. And a shortage of water, with people lining up at those famous Roman fountains for ~~pure~~ water to drink, <sup>others</sup> ~~while~~ they are hiding in their homes, terrorized - as the thunder grows louder from the guns on the nearby battlefield.

## ITALY

The war news from Italy tonight is dominated by two of those roads to Rome. The battlefront extends from the Via Casilina through the Alban Hills, on across the Appian Way to the sea - twenty-six miles. On the Via Casilina, American troops today captured the town of Valmontone, for which they have been fighting for long days in bitter battles. The Germans put up their usual stubborn and ferocious resistance, but the Americans battered their way into Valmontone, and then pushed up the <sup>Via</sup> Casilina ~~Way~~ toward Rome.

~~Meanwhile, to the south, the British Eighth Army is driving up that highway, and today reported an advance of six miles. Canadian troops are in the vanguard, and are now only eighteen miles from the American forces at Valmontone. These eighteen miles represent a gap through which large Nazi forces must escape or be trapped. They have now only two secondary~~



~~roads for a get-away.~~ <sup>HP</sup> At the middle of the battleline before Rome, is the Appian Way, and the key point there is the ancient town of Velletri, a powerfully situated fortress. For days, Allied troops have battered their way forward, throwing flanking spearheads around Velletri, and ~~and~~ Today they captured the place, and promptly kept on going - thrusting along the Appian Way toward Rome.

They found Velletri <sup>the</sup> a mass of ruins that are now so familiar in the battle areas of Italy, buildings turned into shattered rubbish, not one left undamaged - after the days of bombing and shell fire. Little is left save historical memories - for Velletri has a prominent place in the tale of Rome and its empire. It was the home town of the family of Augustus Caesar, whose father, a man dealing with money, was called - "The Usurer of Velletri." He married an aunt of the lordly Julius Caesar.

But present day military strategies are more to the purpose than ancient historical reminiscence. And the point is - the two towns captured today, Valmontone and Velletri, ~~on~~ the two great highways, <sup>indicate</sup> ~~that~~ appear to ~~be~~ a break in the German line before Rome, the line of the Alban Hills. <sup>P</sup> The enemy shows no sign of weakening in spirit - the fighting is of the most violent kind. But there are signs to indicate that the Nazi command may be running short of resources.

~~We are told of prisoners taken - bakers, butchers and clerks, in addition to crack troops of the Hermann Goering Division. Which would make it appear that German manpower is becoming scarce, and they've got to throw in soldiers not much good for combat.) <sup>TP</sup> (Another thing - horses. In captured Velletri, the Americans found numbers of dead horses, some still attached to rolling equipment - which is taken as a sign that the enemy is~~

running short of the motorized machinery of war.

Indeed, the Nazi battle in front of Rome is <sup>believed</sup> ~~taken~~ to be a desperate rear guard action, to hold the Allied forces long enough to <sup>enable</sup> ~~allow~~ the main body of Germans to get out.

One vivid detail is an announcement today of places captured during the past two weeks. These are enumerated as <sup>one</sup> hundred and five towns; and, ninety-seven mountain peaks. We are accustomed to figures of captured towns - in Russia especially. But when military successes are expressed in terms of captured mountain peaks - that's graphic evidence of the character of the war in Italy, the kind of terrain our troops must conquer.

Now Hugh, will you hold  
forth for a moment while  
I ~~add~~ add a line a lost  
battalion story?

## LOST BATTALION

Every war has its lost battalion. This war has had several - and tonight we have a lost battalion story that should rank as the classic of them all.

In the bitter fighting before Rome, a company of American infantry was isolated, cut off for thirty-six hours without food, water or ammunition. How did they escape? They didn't. They drove ahead, instead. *Because* *of a set* *vi* *of* almost fantastic circumstances, they were able to turn *nearly* ~~almost~~ certain disaster into a triumph.

When things looked the most desperate for them, they had their break of luck. They captured a prisoner who turned out to be a Pole, *He* told them he had been forced with the German Army - under a threat of death for his family. Now, he added - he wanted to join the Americans, and help them. Help? There was never such invaluable help in the world for a lost battalion. The Pole showed them where they could find hidden German

supplies nearby, food, guns and ammunition. The Americans procured these, and now had eleven Nazi machine guns, two mortars, fifty machine pistols, more rifles than they could use, and abundant ammunition for the whole lot of firearms. And the Pole showed them how to operate the weapons.

Whereupon the Lost Battalion attacked, first intending to drive back to the American line. But the going was so good that they changed their plan. The going, in fact, was miraculous. Of course they were using German weapons, and the Nazis around them recognized the sound of these - their own types of gun. They thought the Lost Battalion was a German unit, and when they found the bullets and shells were coming from German weapons, they yelled and screamed in protest. They thought they were being fired on by their own men. All of which threw the Nazis into utter confusion, and the Lost Battalion was able to stage a drive forward

for half a mile. And, coordinating their advance with an American tank thrust, they seized a valuable position.

One ironic thing is this: While the Lost Battalion was using German weapons, some of the Nazis were fighting with American guns, automatic Browning rifles, <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ they had captured.

GERMAN GENERAL

7  
Let's end this broadcast with  
~~Here is~~ a startling sort of incident that may

have some bearing on the question of relations between the Nazis and the traditional caste of Prussian officers. We hear that Hitler has turned down an appeal made by a group of the highest officers of the German Army, a group that included Colonel General von Mackensen.

What was the plea they made to their Fuehrer?

They asked him to moderate a sentence inflicted on Lieutenant General Count Sponeck, a sentence that to a Prussian officer must certainly seem to be the most terrible of all. Count Sponeck, an old line Prussian aristocrat, was demoted from the rank of lieutenant-general to that of a private soldier. <sup>π</sup> This goes back to an incident earlier in the Russian war, when Count Sponeck was in command of an infantry division in the Crimea. His troops defended the Kerch Peninsula against <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Red army drive. Hitler personally ordered the General to hold out at all costs, and Count Sponeck's

division did hold out - awaiting reinforcements that had been promised. But the reinforcements never arrived - and, to save his division from annihilation, <sup>the</sup> Count ~~Sponneck~~ ordered <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ withdrawal, in spite of Hitler's express command.

For this he was tried by a court-martial presided over by ~~Hitler~~ <sup>Nazi</sup> Number Two man, <sup>Goering.</sup> ~~Harber~~ ~~Goering.~~ And the court-martial pronounced a sentence beside which <sup>the</sup> a firing squad would have been rather mild- for a proud Prussian officer. Lieutenant General Count von Sponeck ~~was~~ reduced to the mere grade of a private soldier in the rank<sup>s</sup>. From this fate the highest German officers have been trying to save him. <sup>now</sup> But <sup>the</sup> der Fuehrer says No, Nein. He wants the Count and former Lieutenant General to march in the ranks - walk with the infantry.

You could almost make a Wagnerian opera out of that. And now Hugh.



PRIORITY

*Fri, June 2*

Within the next month we are going to have a nationwide program of what they call Priority Referral. It sounds obscure, if not incomprehensible, but it means a system of getting a worker for a job.

Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt <sup>*informs*</sup> ~~us~~ <sup>us</sup>

~~that the road to victory is made difficult by shortages of war workers in some districts and surpluses of workers in others. So~~ they are going to set up Manpower Priority Committees, which will direct the movement of workers to places where they are needed most. In other words, if there are men without jobs in one section, these can apply to the United States Employment Service, and then they'll have the opportunity to go to sections <sup>*where*</sup> ~~for~~ war jobs <sup>*are*</sup> waiting to be filled. ~~This priority referral plan, directed by Manpower Commissioner McNutt, will be the equivalent of setting up sign-posts to guide workers to points where they are needed most.~~